

BRIDGES

Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood
November 2017



This project is funded in part by the Initiative Foundation, a regional foundation.

Annual Gathering

By Steve Lanz, Seventh Avenue

All residents are invited on December 9 at 10:00 AM to Cathedral High School's cafeteria. This yearly gathering is an opportunity to eat, talk and meet your neighbors. There will be a light brunch served including Dutchmaid cinnamon rolls, fruit and coffee. We will be reviewing the Northside Hester Park Neighborhood activities this year along with other neighborhood developments. Presenters include David Larson, facility manager for the Saint Cloud Hospital to discuss developments and field questions. We also have asked a representative from the County Extension service to do a brief presentation about tree problems in the neighborhood (oak wilt, emerald ash borer etc) and field questions. We would like to discuss the River Walk proposal. We would also like to hear from you about activities you would like us to work on during the coming year. All are welcome.

A special visitor will be Santa with a small gift and time to visit with any children. Please let us know via our Facebook page or go to HesterPark.org where you will find a link to send us an email letting us know how many children will be attending.

Christmas Lighting Contest

By Ellen "Susie" Lies, Sixth Avenue

Its that time of year. The snow is falling and Christmas is nearly here. The members of the Northside Hester Park committee will be out and about again this year in early December to look at the out side lighting and decorations, and picking three or four homes for a best decorating award of \$25.00. We will be starting our rounds at 5:30 in the evening, so be sure to turn your lights on. Its time to think about getting those lights and decorations out and up.

Wanted: Writers & Advertisers

By David Mohs, Seventh Avenue

This newsletter is seeking writers. Volunteers can chose their own topics, ranging from an interview with a fellow neighbor to neighborhood happenings. The content of the article should be specific to the neighborhood and maintain a neutral informational perspective on controversial topics.

YOUR PAID AD

This newsletter now accepts paid advertisements at reasonable prices. For more information, use the "contact" form at HesterPark.org.

Upcoming Events

Hospital's Fest of Lights

Date: Thursday 7 December

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: in front of the hospital

Annual Neighborhood Gathering

Date: Saturday 9 December

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Cathedral H.S., door #1

Monthly Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 4 January

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Cathedral H.S., door #1

Monthly Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 1 February

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Cathedral H.S., door #1

Monthly Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 1 March

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Cathedral H.S., door #1

Monthly Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 5 April

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Cathedral H.S., door #1

Thank You

By Steve Lanz, Seventh Avenue

This past winter the Northside-Hester Park group sent out a request for financial donations due to the drop in funding we receive from the St Cloud Neighborhood Coalition. We were very encouraged by the response. It is just another example of the great families that live in the neighborhood. We would like to thank the generous people who voluntarily donated money to the group to help keep us functioning. Thank you Duane and Sue Lenz, Micki Blenkush and Dan Michaels, Bruce Eggerman, Barb Harlender, Connie Schwinghammer and Marge Nistler. Your contributions are deeply appreciated.

Mississippi RiverWalk Update

By Janet Reigstad, Seventh Avenue
Member, RiverWalk Task Force

Many thanks to neighbors who attended and provided input about the RiverWalk at the special neighborhood presentation held this past July 13. Your interest and feedback are appreciated!

The RiverWalk planning process is led by the Saint Cloud Rotary Club, Mississippi Partners, and the City of Saint Cloud. The RiverWalk concept provides for enhanced access to the Mississippi, improved recreation opportunities, urban redevelopment, and shoreline rehabilitation.

Development of a draft RiverWalk plan continued throughout the summer and fall, with community feedback taken into consideration. The City Council approved the RiverWalk Master Plan at their October 23 meeting.

The Plan as adopted includes two phases. In a very brief nutshell, Phase 1 involves creating a linear park along the Mississippi on 5th Avenue North. This means 5th Avenue will be narrowed considerably, and green space with a walking and bike path will be developed. Functional art will help to create a special place. It's anticipated that work on Phase 1 could begin in 2019-2020, if funding is secured. Phase 2 concepts include an interactive river channel, island, and outdoor amphitheater. In order to become a reality, Phase 2 will require considerably more conversation and enhanced community partnerships.

Also, our neighborhood has been awarded an ArtSparks grant through the City. A selection committee will identify functional elements of the RiverWalk trail expansion, solicit ideas and qualifications from artists, and select artists to visually develop their ideas for functional art as part of the RiverWalk experience.

The RiverWalk Task Force will continue efforts to fundraise and build public support for the project. Janet Reigstad and Glenda Burgeson are the neighborhood representatives on the planning task force. If you wish to view the plan in its entirety, you can do so at www.MississippiPartners.org.

Most Successful Ghost Tour

By Seal Dwyer, Seventh Avenue

This year's haunted history walking tour was the most successful our neighborhood has had, even though it was a very cold night. While we included our usual stops at neighborhood homes for Savory treats and homemade desserts, this year we were able to add Butler Park as a stop. As many of you know, our neighborhood has a history of being home of slaves and slave owners. Including Butler Park gave us an opportunity to shine light on this piece of our past. In addition to sharing the rich history of our neighborhood, we raised \$920 for neighborhood activities. We hope that those of you who joined us enjoyed yourselves, and all the feedback we received was positive.



Chairperson's Message

By Seal Dwyer, Seventh Avenue

As I am writing this it is blustery outside. Our neighborhoods trees have lost their leaves, and are blowing with snow. We're coming to the end of the year, and that, of course, is part of why I'm writing you. Our steering committee has been very active this year, doing many things to increase the visibility of our neighborhood in the city as a whole, as well as doing things that make our neighborhood a better place to live. We hosted our annual garage sale, sold water and glow sticks on the 4th of July, did our annual Haunted History tour, published newsletters, and advocated for the new Riverwalk. Coming up we have our annual meeting and our annual holiday light contest.

It is wonderful to see so many of you joining the Facebook page or following the mailing list to get information about what's happening. I'd like to personally invite you if you have not done so yet to either sign up for the Facebook page or the mailing list or both, so that you know what we are doing for our neighborhood.

I'd also like, at this end of the year time, to ask you to consider making a tax deductible donation to our neighborhood organization. Some of the upcoming projects that your money would go towards include amenities for the Riverwalk, fixtures and fittings in Butler Park, keeping the pool open in Hester Park, and all the great activities that we do all year long. We are a 501(c)3 organization, so every dollar you donate is tax-deductible.

I'd also like to invite you to join our steering committee. We meet every month for about 2 hours, so it's not a huge commitment, but you would have the opportunity to make big changes in our neighborhood.

Regardless of whether you donate money or time, thank you for being part of our community and part of what makes this the best neighborhood to live in.

Best wishes in 2018.

Neighborhood News via Email

Desire to receive email notices about neighborhood events? Sign-up online. www.HesterPark.org

Have Facebook? Hester Park is also there.

Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood



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STC Neighborhood Coalition

By Janet Reigstad, Seventh Avenue
Chair, Saint Cloud Neighborhood Coalition

Mission: We build community.

Vision: The Saint Cloud Neighborhood Coalition exists to support community building within and across Saint Cloud's neighborhoods, to ensure that all are vibrant, inclusive, safe, and desirable places to live.

The Northside Hester Park neighborhood association is one of six neighborhoods that currently make up the Saint Cloud Neighborhood Coalition. The Coalition recently underwent some organizational soul searching (aka strategic planning) and developed the new mission and vision you see above. These new statements provide direction for our future!

The Coalition is looking for persons with interests in non-profit governance, community engagement, community action, and development/fund raising to assist us in meeting our new mission and vision. If you are interested in being part of this, and would like more info, contact Janet Reigstad at 320-249-1293.

Let's build community together and help all our neighborhoods thrive!!